

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 041441Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8219

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: IRMAK'S GOVERNMENT FORMATION EFFORT

REF: ANKARA 1731

1. PRIMIN-DESIGNATE IRMAK INITIATED HIS ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER A COALITION GOVERNMENT BY CALLING ON REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN ECEVIT AND REPUGLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) CHAIRMAN FEYZIOGLU MARCH 3 AND ON JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL MARCH 4. IN CONTRAST TO THE HASTE WHICH MAKED HIS UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT LAST FALL, IRMAK ANNOUNCED THAT HIS CONTACTS COULD GO ON FOR WEEKS, AND HE WOULD NOT MAKE STATEMENTS ON HOW HIW WORK WAS PROGRESSING UNTIL THE END OF EACH WEEK.

2. IRMAK, RESPONDING TO JP CRITICISM THAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK WAS ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A PARTICULAR MODEL OF GOVERNMENT, SAID ON MARCH 3: "THIS IS A NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT TO REPRESENT NATIONAL UNITY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE IMPOSITION OF A FORM OF GOVERNMENT ON PARLIAMENT...CERTAINLY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION RESTS WITH PARLIAMENT AND THE MAJORITY OF OUR PARTIES."

HE INDICATED THAT BY "NATIONAL COALITION" HE MEANT A GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE RPP AND THE JP. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO, HE DID NOT THINK THAT UNITY WAS IMPOSSIBLE. IRMAK SAID THAT "IF SUCH A GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FORMED, OTHER FORMULAS FOR A GOVERNMENT AS WIDELY DEPENDENT ON PARLIAMENT WILL ALSO BE TRIED ONE BY ONE."

3. PARTY COMMENTS ON FOR FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT:

A. ECEVIT REITERATED HIS PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO JOIN ANY GOVERNMENT BASED ON EARLY ELECTIONS.

B. FEYZIOGLU NOTED THAT THE RR "DID NOT WANT TO FALL AGAIN INTO AN ARRANGEMENT OF PROMISES THAT WILL NOT BE KEPT" AND INSISTED ON THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF WINNING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. THE RR, HE SAID, WOULD NOT JOIN A GOVERNMENT WHICH DID NOT "ENSURE ELECTION SECURITY AND ELECTION JUSTICE OR TAKE THE LEGAL MEASURES MENTIONED BY THE PRESIDENT" (E.E., REFORM OF THE ELECTION LAW).

C. DEMIREL STATED THAT FORMATION OF A JP-RPP GOVERNMENT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HE SAID AN ACTION GOVERNMENT WAS NEEDED AND THAT A GOVERNMENT FORMED SOLELY FOR PURPOSE OF HOLDING EARLY ELECTIONS DID NOT NEED TO BE A NATIONAL COALITION. ON OTHER HAND, HE NOTED, AN ACTION GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO HOLD ELECTIONS.

D. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) ASSEMBLY GROUP, WHICH MET MARCH 4, ISSUED A STATEMENT STATING THAT THE DP IS READY TO GIVE ALL ASSISTANCE TO IRMAK IN FORMING A NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE DP STATEMENT CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A "STRONG, STABLE GOVERNMENT OF ACTION" AND NOTED THAT THE DP WOULD REVIEW ITS POSITION IF IRMAK'S EFFORTS DID NOT LEAD TO FORMATION OF A NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: IRMAK'S STATEMENT THAT HIS EFFORTS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE SOME TIME INDICATES THAT PRESS SPECULATION THAT KORUTURK WOULD RESIGN MARCH 6 IF NO GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED IS PROBABLY OFF THE MARK. AS IN THE PAST, THE KEY TO SOLVING THE CRISIS IS THE DP. ONE RUMOR IS THAT AN RPP-DP-RR COALITION WILL BE FORMED, WITH THE RR'S 13 SEATS OFFSETTING LIKELY DEFECTIONS FROM THE DP.
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